20 \$HILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND EEEOKMER

Meantime, across the Atlantic, Yan Buren being President of the United States, Emerson was writing Metlxcxl of Nature "; Longfellow his "Voices of the Wight"; Lowell, " A Year's Life "; Irving on his side contributing Wolfcrt's Eoost" to the "Knickerbocker," Willis publishing sair," and Poe his "Tales of the Grotesque." To English and American readers those imperfect maries may give some idea of the " literary movement Great Britain and the United States at the time 15 Zola was born. But what of his own country, France During nearly ten years Louis Philippe had been reigning there; and a few months later the ashes of Napoleon to be brought back from St. Helena; for the Orleans monarchy, which had now reached its zenith. imagined itself be guite secure. Indeed, when in August, that the great conqueror's nephew descended on Boulogne, "with a tame eagle upon his arm and a proclamation Ms he covered himself with ridicule instead of glory had anticipated. And, again, though it was in 1840 that Louis Blanc first issued his "Organisation duTravail/' fore beginning his "Histoire de Dix Ans," Republican, and Socialist propaganda was not as yet sufficiently advanced to bear much fruit.

Literature flourished, and cast upon the reign the glory which it failed to glean on other fields, for little Algerian exploits, however dashing, and none at all was harvested by art adventurous diplomacy. But a generation of remarkable writers had arisen, some among them groat, many of them eminent in their respective spheres. la 1840, no doubt, the shadows were gathering around Chateaubriand* Casimir Delavigne could see his transient popularity declin-